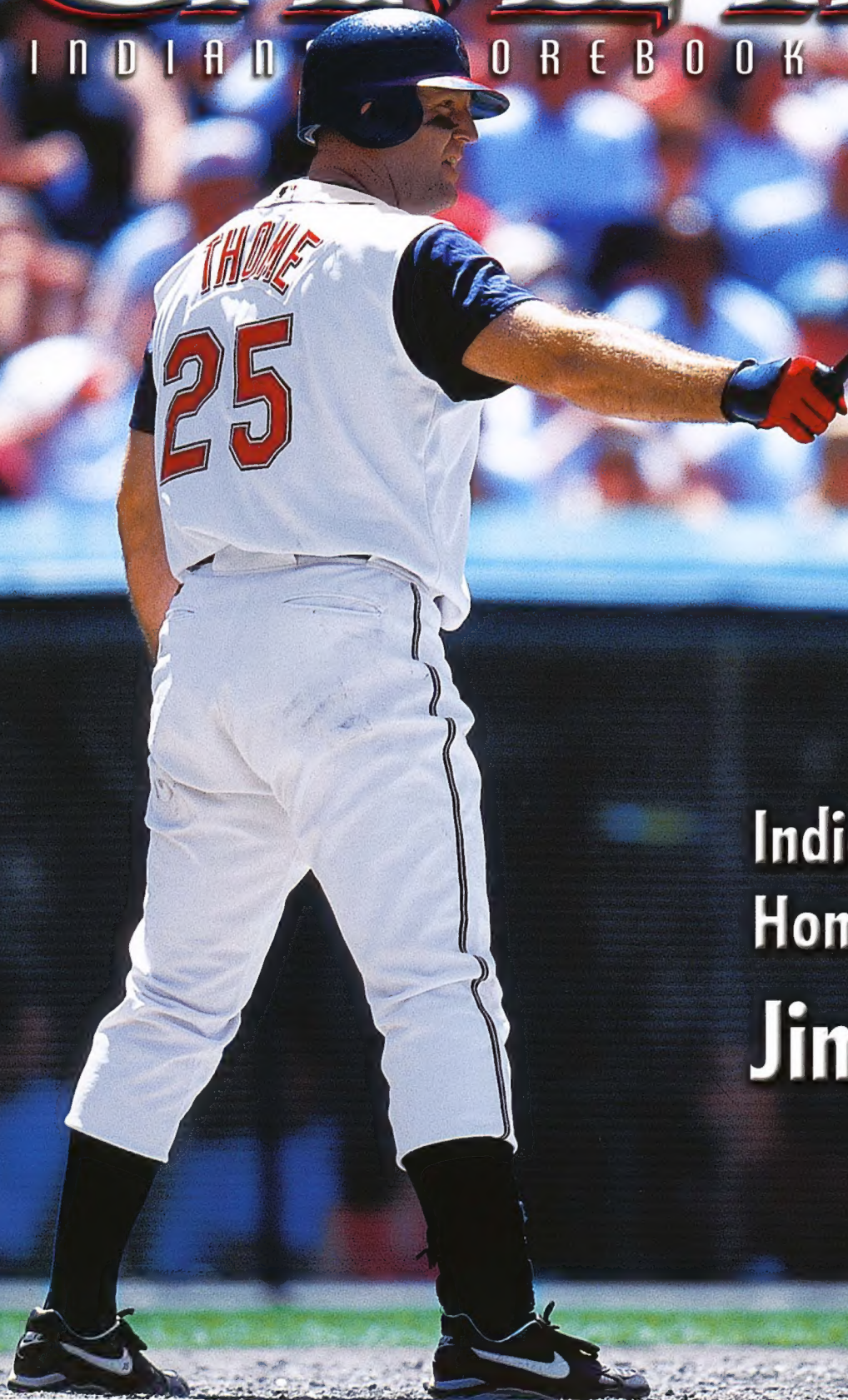


GAMEFACE

INDIANANOREBOOK MAGAZINE



Indians All-Time
Home Run Leader
Jim Thome

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Photo: Gregory Drezdson

Talkin' Baseball with Jim Thome

By Jim Ingraham

It began on September 4, 1991, near the end of an epic 105-loss season for the Cleveland Indians.

The call was made to Class AAA Colorado Springs, and that afternoon 21-year-old third baseman Jim Thome walked into the visitors' clubhouse at the Metrodome in Minneapolis, and, for the first time in his professional career, pulled on a Major League uniform.

An Indians uniform.

Number 25.

He's been wearing it ever since.

That night in the Metrodome, Thome got his first Major League hit, a single off a pitcher named Tom Edens.

On October 4 of that year, Thome hit his first Major League home run – a mammoth, two-run upper deck blast off Steve Farr at Yankee Stadium, *The House That Ruth Built*.

Eight years later, Thome hit a home run that tied *The Mark That Ruth Set*. In Game 5 of the 1999 Division Series vs. Boston, Thome belted his 16th career post-season home run, passing Babe Ruth, who hit 15. Thome hit two more after that, giving him 17 career post-season home runs. Only Reggie Jackson and Mickey Mantle, both with 18, have hit more.

Since hitting his first Major League home run off Steve Farr, Thome has hit over 300 more, becoming the Indians all-time leading home-run hitter.

He has climbed into the tops of most of the franchise's all-time lists in offensive categories and was named one of the 100 greatest Indians.

Jim Thome has achieved a lot since being selected by the Indians as a virtual unknown player in the 13th round of the 1989 June Draft. The 2002 season marks Thome's 14th season in the Cleveland organization.

In the following interview, he looks back on a baseball career that is still in its prime, but is already stuffed with highlights.

Q: What's your first baseball memory?

A: My father taking me to Wrigley Field. I think I was nine years old, and I just fell in love with baseball when I went in there, because of all the tradition.

Q: Is that when you ended up in the dugout?

A: No, that was a couple years later.

Q: What's the short version of that story?

A: I tried to get Dave Kingman's autograph. Yelled his name. Got no response. Decided to jump down on the field. Thought that was OK as a kid. Went after him to get his autograph. Went into the dugout. (Cubs catcher) Barry Foote carried me out. It was early then, nobody was around, and by that time my Dad saw Barry Foote carrying me out, and came and got me.

Q: You come from a baseball family, right?

A: My aunt played. And my Grandpa, he played in the Three-I League. But back then they used to barnstorm Illinois, Iowa, a lot of different states. They would travel and play a lot of games all over. My Dad talks a lot about that.

Q: Did you get nudged toward baseball by either parent?

A: By my Dad. Baseball is what I grew up in. Peoria then had this Sunday morning league where teams would play. That's what my Dad did. He played softball, traveled to Iowa. He really enjoyed playing, and I followed him around, watching.

Q: So you kind of naturally fell into baseball?

A: Right.

Q: Was baseball always your No. 1 sport?

A: Baseball was always No. 1, yes. But growing up in Peoria, which is a big high school basketball town, you did both. But my first love was baseball.

Q: Did you play Little League?

A: Yeah.

Q: Were you a big star?

A: Yeah, I was pretty good.

Q: Then high school?

A: Right. I played in high school, and would play all summer, as many games as I could. Then I graduated from high school and

thought I might get drafted out of high school, but didn't. I ended up playing, after my senior year, on an American Legion team that went to the step before the finals of the state American Legion championship. I did pretty well there, won a couple of the MVPs, and that's when professional teams started scouting me and asking if I would be interested in signing.

Q: What position did you play then?

A: I was a shortstop. I didn't move to third base until after the Indians drafted me.

Q: Do you miss playing shortstop?

A: (Laughs) No!

Q: Was there a point growing up where it started to occur to you that maybe you could be a professional baseball player?

A: No. I mean, you always have a dream, but my Dad wouldn't let me think too much about that. Cockiness and arrogance was never part of the deal. I think there was always that inner belief that, "Man, if I keep progressing maybe I'd get an opportunity to sign with someone." I think once I got to Double-A, that's when I thought I could make it to the big leagues.

Q: You were drafted in the 13th round, so you weren't one of those high profile, big name top draft picks, right?

A: No. I had no idea who was going to draft me. I mean, I never even talked to Cleveland before the draft. The teams I talked to were the Cardinals, the Twins, and the Reds. I went for a workout, a pre-draft workout with the Reds at Riverfront Stadium. But I talked with the Twins scout more than anyone.

Q: Was the day of the draft a big day for you?

A: Oh, it was huge. I remember getting the phone call telling me I was drafted.

Q: So you get drafted by the Indians, who were really not one of the better teams at the time, right?

A: Right. But that was good for me because I thought to myself, "Maybe if I keep progressing I'll get a chance to come to the big leagues." And it worked out.

A: Yeah. And that goes back to having great coaching. Charlie (Manuel) was there, and all the managers I had, Brian Graham and Ken Bolek, all those guys were really good baseball people.

A: That was in extended spring (in the summer of 1989). He was actually working with another player and I just kept listening to him talk and I guess he jumped on my bandwagon and . . .

A: That's right.

A: No. What happened was, I don't think my body was fully developed then. I'm 30 to 40 pounds heavier now than I was when I was playing in the Minor Leagues. I mean I'm 235 to 240 pounds now. As a Minor Leaguer I was 200, 205 pounds, at the most. I think I was fortunate enough to grow into my body, and that's when the power developed.

A: To be honest about it, I was young and I didn't know much. And when they did teach me how to play third base – it took me a long time, even into the big leagues, when I struggled defensively early in my career.

Q: When you offered to move from third base to first base when the Indians signed Matt Williams after the 1996 season, did the fact that you had already changed positions once make that switch a little easier?

A: Yeah, and the fact that first base was also a corner position, that helped.

Q: Why were you so willing to move to first base? A lot of players would have resisted a suggestion like that.

A: We had a chance to get a great player. Not that personal things aren't important, but winning is more important. And getting Matt Williams was huge.

And as it turned out Matty is one of my better friends in the game. So everything happens for a reason.

I'll never forget that, though. John Hart called me in and said, "There's a chance we can get Matt Williams. Would you move to first?"

And I said, "Yeah, I'll do it."

And I said, "Well, whatever." But then I wound up making the All-Star team that year (1997) anyway, which was great.

Q: That 1997 team, was sort of an odd season. During the regular season, you guys didn't overpower anyone like you did in 1995, but once you got into the post season it really became a wild ride.

A: The thing about that 1997 team is that we peaked at the right time. We had good players. We didn't have a lot of superstars like we did in 1995, but we peaked at the right time and we played really good fundamental baseball.

We had good pitching, and we played great defense. I mean, in that series in Baltimore (the American League Championship Series), Matt Williams made some of the best defensive plays at third base that I've ever seen. And Marquis Grissom (in Game 2) is laying on the trainer's table before the game sick, and then he comes out and hits the game-winning home run. That was a really special team.

Q: Is there one game, more from a team standpoint than an individual standpoint, that is most memorable to you in your career?

A: I would say just the way that '97 team fought all the time. We didn't have the '95 talent but we believed we could do anything.

Q: In the post season that year you guys won one miraculous game after another. When that happens do you start to think that you just can't lose?

A: It gets a little contagious, like hitting gets contagious. You're doing well and in a groove. You just want it to last and keep going. And I think that momentum just keeps going on and on, and that's what we had.

Q: Then in the World Series that year, how crushing was that to lose the lead in the ninth inning of Game 7, and then to lose the game in extra innings?

A: That was tough. I mean we had never been so close to winning the World Series. You play with these guys for three or four years. You're in a situation where you're three outs from the ring, and you work your whole career to get that. It's just . . . The emotional setback was just devastating. It was probably the toughest moment of my career, to have to walk off that field at the end of that game.

Q: Do you ever watch highlights from that game?

A: Never. I'll never ever turn the TV on to watch a replay of that game.



Photo: Gregory Drezdson

A: Brook Jacoby and Joel Skinner. They were veteran guys and great people. So it was easy to follow those guys and try to learn from them.

Q: Of all your post-season home runs, is there one that stands out in your mind as the most memorable?

A: Brook Jacoby and Joel Skinner. They were veteran guys and great people. So it was easy to follow those guys and try to learn from them. I remember the first time I went out and took infield wearing spikes, and Brook said, "No, we don't do that here, because it tears up the infield before the game." Little stuff like that. They would help you with the etiquette of the game. Another guy who helped me was Jeff Manto. He was really good at teaching you how to play the game and how to act when you came to the big leagues.

A: Probably Pedro Martinez. But there are so many tough ones. Roger Clemens. Mike

Thome may be best known for towering home runs, but his high on-base average benefits not only from hits, but also from bases on balls.

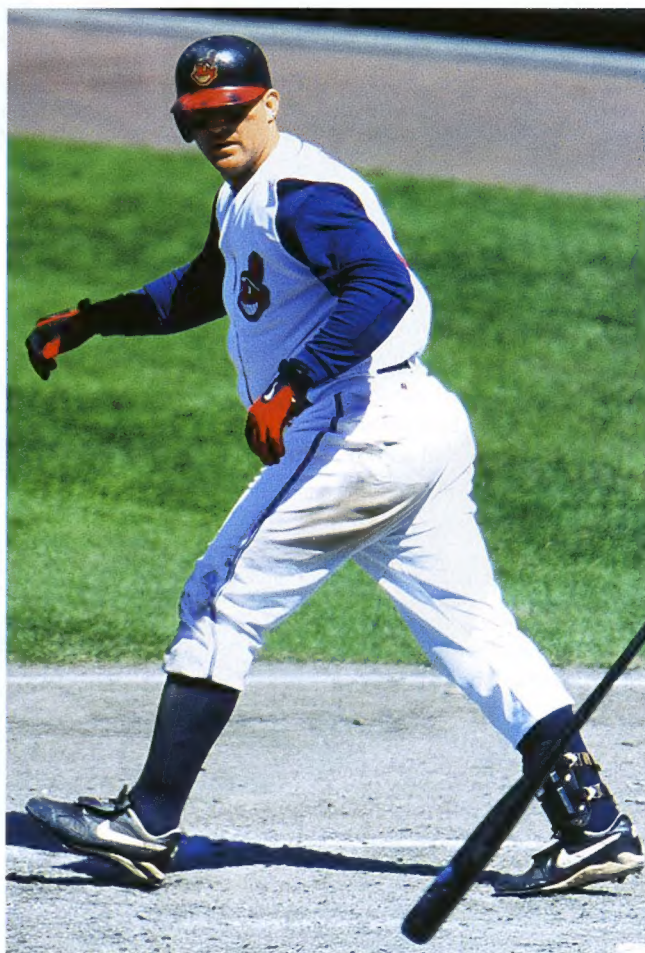


Photo: Gregory Drezdzon

A: It's like everything stops and you're floating out there somewhere and everything

Photo: Gregory Drezdson

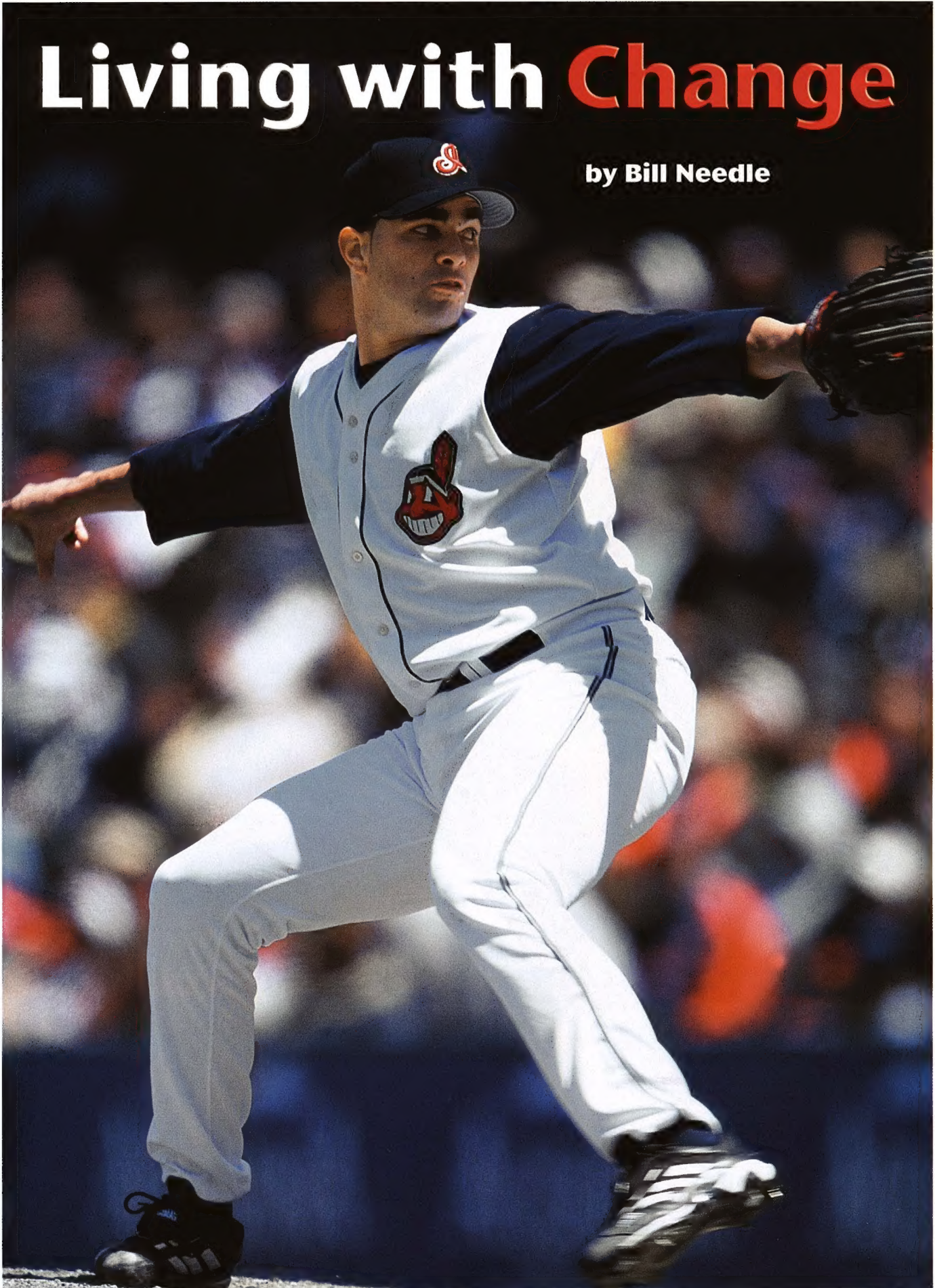
Q: Can you tell at the point of contact that it's not just going to be a home run, but it's going to be a very long home run?

A: There are a few, but I'll tell you when it's over, if I reach them. The main one, obviously, would be winning the World Series. That's the ultimate, because that's why we play, to win a World Championship.



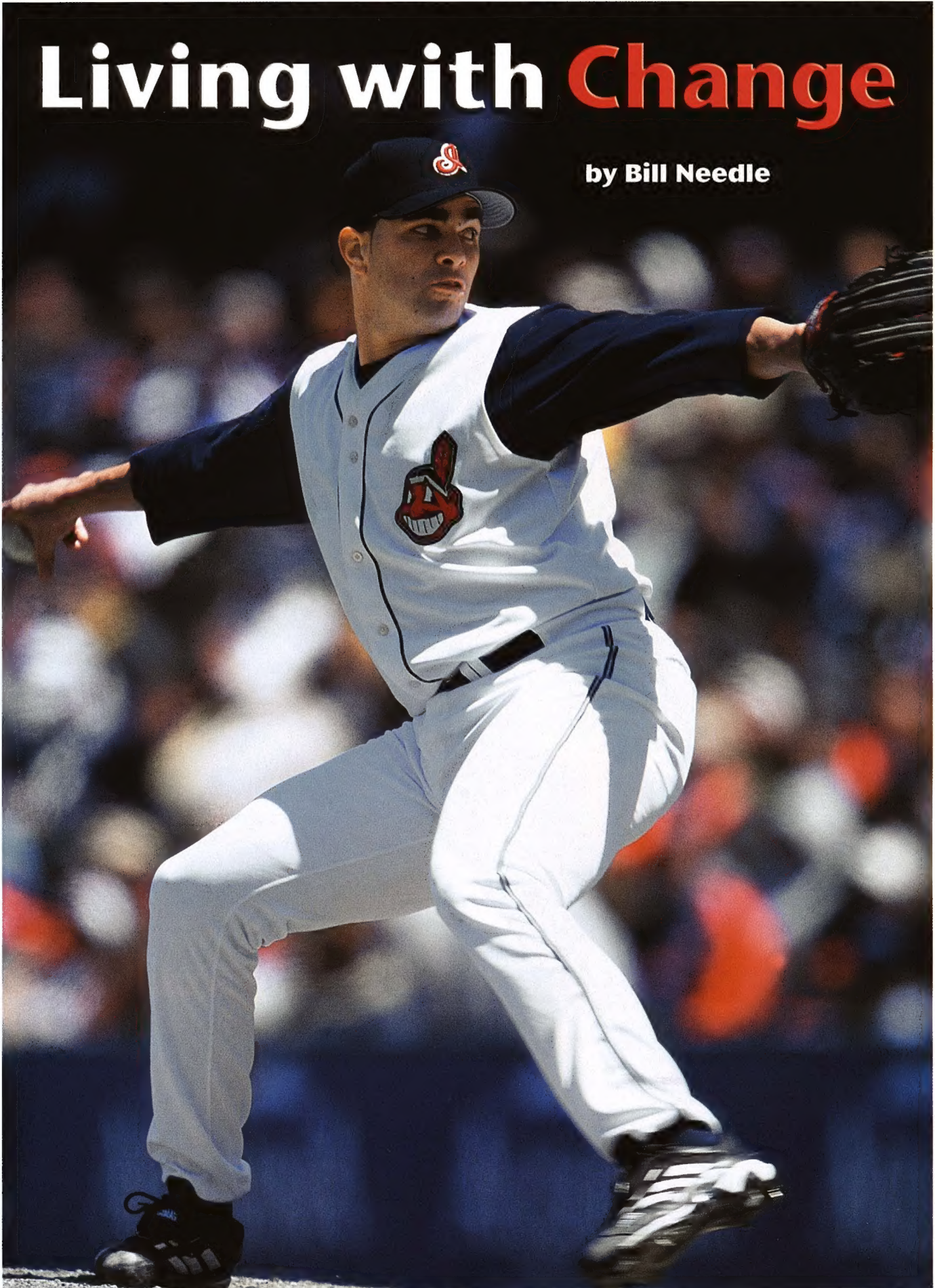
Living with **Change**

by Bill Needle



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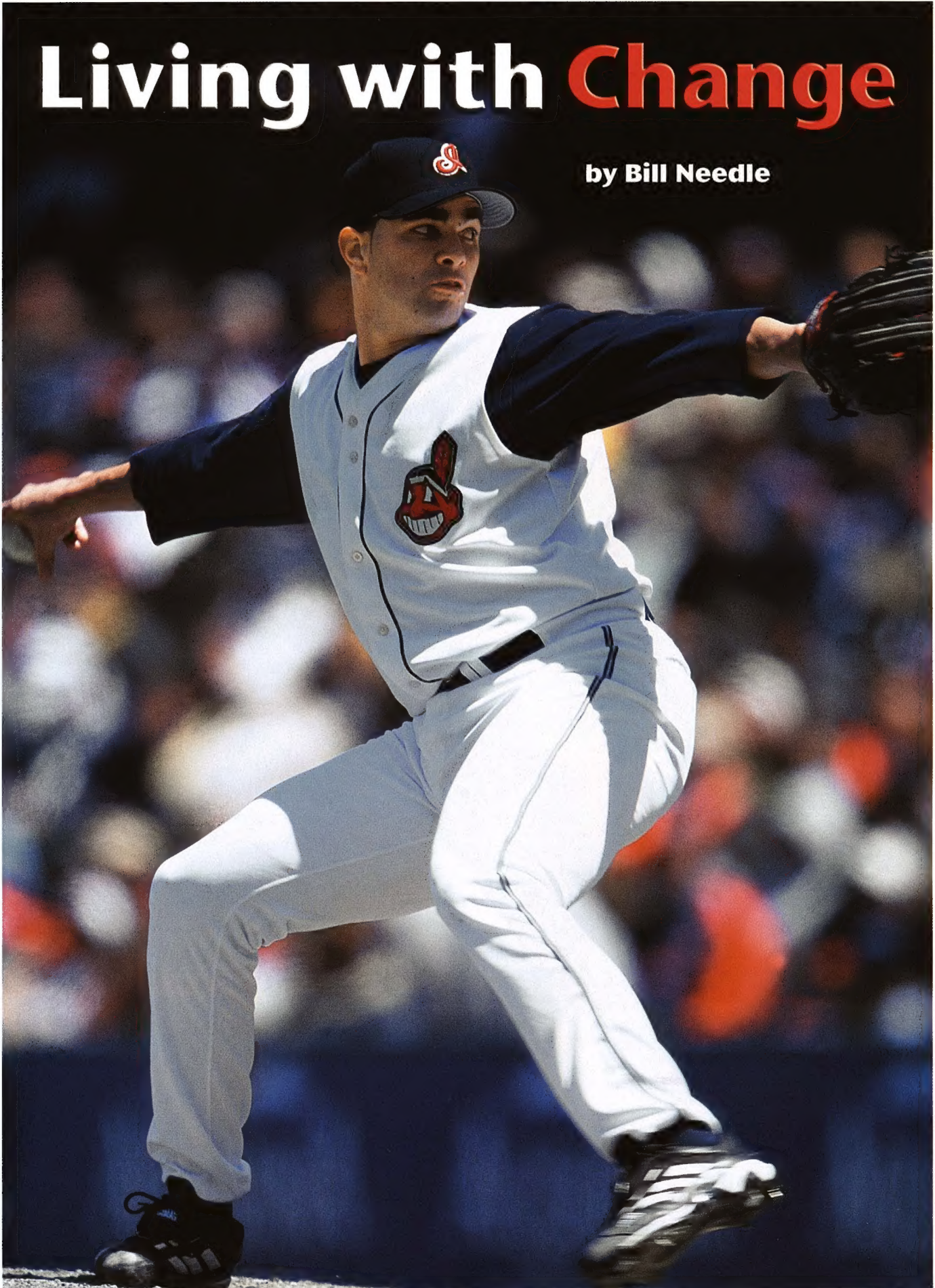




Photo: Gregory Drezdson

After what Danys Baez went through emotionally to get to the pitcher's mound at Jacobs Field, nothing he faces there is the least bit intimidating.

After what Baez went through culturally to get to Jacobs Field, the change from the bullpen culture to that of a starter is as simple a transition as changing socks.

After what Danys Baez went through mentally to get to the Indians, learning English as a second language is easier than 30 minutes a day listening to tapes.

Baez defected from Cuba on August 1, 1999, during the Pan American Games, prior to the gold medal contest between Cuba and the United States. He has yet to return to his native country.

While the stories of Baez and the Hernandez brothers – Livan and “El Duque” – have attracted considerable attention during the past decade, Cuban baseball players have been forced to defect for more than 40 years – if they wanted to play in the Major Leagues, that is.

In 1960, Fidel Castro, then Cuba's new leader, gave his country's professional players

Above (l to r) Baez (with Colon) now watches game action from the dugout, rather than the bullpen.

a choice: either play professionally outside Cuba and never come home again or remain in Cuba forever and forego a chance to ever play in the Bigs.

Baez was a member of the Cuban National Team when he arrived in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada for the Pan Am Games.

“We were staying at a military base in Canada,” Baez remembers. “We wanted to eat at the McDonald's or Pizza Hut, but we were not allowed to leave the base, except for the games.

“Security was everywhere. You didn't know if your teammate was an agent for the government, so you didn't talk about wanting to defect. They didn't want anybody to defect.

“I was scared. I told the security people that I was going to get some tape for a VCR. I went to one part of the building, way in the back, and opened the door.”

To freedom. To opportunity. To McDonald's. To Organized Baseball. To Cleve-

land. To Jacobs Field. To a future with infinitely more possibilities than Baez had in Cuba.

With the assistance of Joe Cubas, an agent who had aided a number of defectors from Cuban baseball including “El Duque,” Baez went to Costa Rica and established residence. Later, he obtained the proper credentials to enter the United States.

Baez's escape from Cuba's totalitarianism started a bidding war, somewhat surprising because he was only in his third season as a pitcher, having played outfield prior to the position change. Mentioned as Cleveland's rivals for Baez's services were the Braves, the Devil Rays, and – not surprisingly – the Yankees.

The interest that Baez created among the teams vying for his talent was also somewhat surprising. There were no statistics, no radar gun readouts, and no scouting reports detailing his every move since age 13.

All the Indians had was a videotape of Baez in action, reports on his work in the Pan Am Games prior to his defection, and – at least – firsthand impressions made in an October,

1999 workout in San Jose, Costa Rica, on a rockpile diamond with ankle-high grass.

The contract Baez chose to sign with the Indians was for the largest sum ever offered to an amateur player. What Baez chose to do with the money revealed more about the man than any psychological profile.

First, he repaid the generosity of an aunt and uncle living in Fort Lauderdale who had sent money to the Baez family when all were living in Cuba. One day, Baez bought new pickup trucks for his aunt and uncle and the next day, paid off the mortgage on their home.

"In Cuba, we had nothing," he said. "When we were there, my family here in America would send us money and I never forgot that. So when I came here, I wanted to relieve the pressure they felt. It was wonderful to be able to repay them, even though money can never repay what they did to help us."

Few can comprehend what life is like in Cuba. Baez's parents are university professors. Each earns the equivalent of \$10 per month. Baez's older brother, Dennis, is also a university professor. He, too, earns the equivalent of \$10 per month. As a member of the Cuban National team, Baez, himself, earned \$10 per month, despite having a university degree in physics and a fastball that requires every formula he learned in the classroom to measure.

In Cuba, food is rationed. Each month, every Cuban is allotted one dozen eggs, six pounds of rice, and five pounds of sugar. Chicken and beef are given out twice per month. Milk is reserved for Cubans under the age of six.

After leaving Castro's "Workers' Paradise," Baez was overwhelmed by what he encountered in the United States.

"People in Cuba could never imagine all of what is in the United States," Baez said. But the flip side of America's prosperity is the individual isolation one feels as a defector.

Baez said goodbye to his parents in July, 1999 when he left Cuba for the Pan Am Games in Canada. He hasn't seen them since. Perhaps day-to-day life in Cuba prepared him for the separation, as much as anything can prepare one for such trauma. Baez spent most of his life in Cuba away from home.

"When I was 12, I was taken away from home and sent to a government camp where I was given the job of an orange picker," he said. "Then I spent two years in the military. After that, I went to college to study physics."

"Since I was 12, I've spent much more time away from home than with my family."



Photo: Gregory Drezdson

A large American flag is waving in the foreground, partially obscuring the view of the stadium. In the background, three tall stadium light towers with multiple lamps each are visible against a clear sky. The flag is attached to a metal structure, and the stadium's steel framework is also visible.

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Veteran Backstop

Lends Experience to Young Pitching Staff

by Steve Herrick



Photo: Gregory Drezdson

From his position as a Major League catcher for the last seven years, Eddie Perez knows a lot about pitchers.

While catching for the Atlanta Braves from 1995 through last season, Perez had the opportunity to catch some of the dominant pitchers of this era, including Greg Maddux, Tom Glavine, and John Smoltz. All three could end up in the Hall of Fame.

Perez thinks catching those three, as well as Atlanta's other talented pitchers, has been beneficial to his career.

"It's helped me," he said. "Those guys are great pitchers. I learned a lot from catching them."

Since being traded to the Indians on March 21, Perez has found himself catching a much younger staff. While it's too early to compare the Indians staff with Atlanta's, Perez thinks the Tribe's young starters: Bartolo Colon, C.C. Sabathia, Danys Baez, and Ryan Drese have a bright future.

"This is a fun staff to catch," he said. "They're all doing a great job for us. They're young, but they're going to get better and they already know how to pitch. They will have fun with this staff here."

Part of being a good catcher is realizing that not all pitchers are the same.

"I remember in Atlanta that everybody was different," he said. "They had Maddux, Glavine, Smoltz, (Kent) Mercker, and (Steve) Avery. The guys here are all different, too."

Perez, 34, is especially impressed with the raw talent of the Indians young pitchers. He thinks there are plenty of good days ahead for the Indians and their fans because of Colon, Sabathia, Baez, and Drese.

"We have a lot of power on this staff," he said. "Bartolo, C.C., Danys, and Ryan all throw hard. They have a lot of ability."

Perez particularly enjoys catching Colon, who can reach the high-90s on the radar gun.

"Bartolo is a power pitcher," he said. "Guys try to hit his fastball, but they can't do it."

Before an injury to his right rotator cuff caused him to miss most of the last two seasons, Perez was Maddux's personal catcher. It

Indians Catcher Eddie Perez

Perez was the Braves backup catcher the next three seasons. He hit a career-high .336 with six homers and 32 RBI in 61 games in 1998. When Lopez was injured in July of the following season, Perez took over as the No. 1 catcher. He set career highs in games played

Photo: Gregory Drezdzon

There was no particular incident that caused the injury. Instead, it was the result of

After a summer of workouts on the shoulder, Perez went on a Minor League rehab assignment to Class AA Greenville the last two

weeks of August. He finally returned to the Braves and appeared in five late-season games.

"It was tough to be in that position," he said. "I never doubted I would make it back. It took two years for me to feel good."

Perez finally got back to 100 percent while playing winter ball in Venezuela during the off-season and thought he was ready when the Braves opened camp this season.

"Coming into Spring Training I knew my arm was back," he said.

Perez got a jolt late in Spring Training when the Braves acquired catcher Henry Blanco from Milwaukee to be Lopez's backup. He briefly considered leaving camp before talking to Cox.

"Bobby called me in and said, 'Look, Eddie, you've been part of us for years. We'd like to keep you. Maybe we'll carry three catchers.' I knew they had never carried three catchers before, so they weren't going to do that," said Perez.

Cox convinced Perez to stay because the Braves next two opponents in exhibition play were looking for backup catchers. Atlanta's next opponent happened to be the Indians, who were looking for an experienced backup to Einar Diaz. The Indians knew Eddie Taubensee would miss most of the season be-



Perez, above with Baez, has a wealth of experience to share with the Tribe's young hurlers.



cause of back problems while Tim Laker had off-season surgery due to abdominal problems.

"Bobby told me Cleveland needed somebody and he would put me in early in the game," said Perez. "He put me in in the fourth inning and I played."

After the game, Perez got a tip from Indians shortstop Omar Vizquel, who's also from Venezuela.

"I talked to Omar and he said, 'We need you here,' so I thought something might happen," said Perez.

"We put together a list to find a quality backup," said Indians assistant general manager Neal Huntington. "We wanted an experienced guy. We wanted a guy who could call a good game and who had handled a pretty good pitching staff."

The Braves were playing Toronto, which also was in the market for a catcher, the following day.

"I was going up to hit in the second inning," he said. "Bobby stopped me and told me I had just been traded to the Indians."

Despite the fact he knew his days with the Braves were numbered, Perez found it difficult to leave Atlanta. It's a sentiment most players feel when they are traded from the organization in which they started their careers. That's why Perez had tears in his eyes soon after being told about the trade.

"I was shocked," he said. "I never thought they would trade me."



All the Indians wanted to see firsthand was whether Perez's shoulder was sound.

Once he proved it was, he was on the team.

"I knew I had to show them, but I knew it wouldn't be a problem," he said.

"We wanted him to show he could throw well enough to keep American League base runners honest," said Huntington. "He's shown that. He's throwing the ball fine. He's done a great job of getting rid of the ball and he's been very accurate."

Perez thinks what he has learned over the years is an asset.

"I think I can help a lot of people, pitchers and other catchers," he said. "I think I can help Einar and tell him things that he might not know. I love to teach people about baseball. As a catcher, you have to know about pitching, but you also have to know a lot about hitting too."

"Eddie's been a big help," said Diaz. "He knows a lot about the hitters. He knows how to call a game and work with the pitchers. We talk about a lot of different things."

"His experience and his knowledge can help, whether it's in a conversation with someone at 2 o'clock in the afternoon in the clubhouse, or in a visit to the mound, or with a pitch call," said Huntington.

Indians manager Charlie Manuel is pleased to have Perez with the Tribe.

"We were lucky to get Eddie," said Manuel. "He's a good catcher and he has a lot of experience. Eddie's throwing the ball well. He's done a solid job for us."

Perez said Indians bullpen coach Luis Isaac, a former catcher, has been a good teacher for him.

"Luis has helped me a lot," he said. "He knows a lot about catching. He showed me

some things that have helped me with my throwing."

Manuel knows the pitching staff is in good hands when he gives Diaz a day off and puts Perez behind the plate. Perez's presence especially paid off when Diaz suffered a cracked rib earlier in the season and had to miss some games.

"I know I can put Eddie back there whenever I need to," said Manuel. "He works with the pitchers and I think he's done a good job with his throwing."

Perez threw out 10 of the first 21 runners who tried to steal against him this season.

Perez's early season offensive highlight came on a three-run double against Detroit on April 5.

Born on May 4, 1968 in Ciudad Ojeda, Venezuela, Perez followed baseball at an early age. His favorite player was Cincinnati Reds shortstop Dave Concepcion.

"I was his No. 1 fan," he said. "I was always going crazy to see him play. I loved to see the Cincinnati Reds."

Ironically, Perez's first Major League game was against the Reds at Riverfront Stadium in 1995. "It was my first game and I hit a home run off Mike Jackson (for his first Major League hit)," he said. "To hit my first home run in the ballpark he played in was amazing."

Another hero of Perez's was Luis Aparacio, a Hall of Fame shortstop from Venezuela. "He was a national hero, but I never saw him play," said Perez.

Despite having two shortstops as his heroes, Perez has been a catcher since he started playing baseball as a youngster. He was the third catcher from Venezuela to make the Majors. The first two were Bo Diaz, who played for the Indians from 1978-81, and Carlos Hernandez, who caught for San Diego.

Since Perez, a .258 career hitter going into this season, enjoys teaching so much, he's given some thought about going into coaching when his playing days are over.

"I don't know right now," he said. "I'd love to stay in baseball, but I don't know what will happen."

Once he got over the shock of being traded, it didn't take long for Perez to adjust to being with the Indians.

"I like it here a lot," he said. "I enjoy playing with these guys and there are a lot of nice people in the organization. If I was going to play for someone other than the Braves, it would be here. I'm very happy to be here."

It's safe to say the Cleveland Indians feel the same way.



Photo: Gregory Drezdson

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Slippin' n Slidin' Around Town Year-Round



Cleveland Indians Charities (CIC), the charitable arm of the Cleveland Indians, was established in 1989 to make a positive contribution to the quality of life for Northeast Ohio youth by providing educational and recreational opportunities. It is the intent of CIC's staff that the contributions made to partner organizations will energize thousands of kids to face today's challenges with courage and responsibility.

Putting the "Fun" in "Fund-Raiser"

Events Support Youth Recreation and Education Programs

Since 1989, CIC has donated \$3.875 million to youth-oriented agencies and organizations of Northeast Ohio. CIC has established relationships with several local organizations that focus on youth education

The monies donated by CIC have been raised through a variety of activities, including the Online Auction, Celebrity Golf Classic, First Pitch Luncheon, Jacobs Field Tours, Pepsi Corporate Hitting Challenge, and numerous other special events throughout the season. In addition, a significant major portion of the total was raised through the generosity of Cleveland Indians players, coaches, front office, and corporate partners.

Based on fund-raising activities, CIC made the following donations to area charities in 2001: For the seventh straight year, CIC donated \$100,000 to the Cleveland Municipal School District's Athletic Department. The \$100,000 donation will help defray the cost of high school baseball and softball programs. CIC also made significant donations to the following organizations in 2001: Boys & Girls Clubs of Cleveland (\$100,000); The United Black Fund of Greater Cleveland (\$60,000) for the operation of the Larry Doby RBI (Reviving Baseball in Inner Cities) Program; Cleveland Baseball Federation (\$50,000); and the City of Cleveland Division of Recreation (\$45,000) for operation of the Rookie League Youth Baseball Program and a girls softball program.

The Cleveland Indians organization and its players have a unique opportunity to make a positive impact on the youth of Northeast Ohio. It is an opportunity and responsibility we embrace.

If you would like information on any of the programs offered through Cleveland Indians Charities, please call 216.420.4400.

2002 CIC Events

Online Auction

April-December – Don't miss your chance to own a piece of the 2001 American League Central Division Champion Cleveland Indians! Visit indians.com and click on the AUCTION link to bid on a variety of unique and one-of-a-kind Indians and baseball memorabilia includ-



Photo: Gregory Drezdson

and youth recreation. The following organizations benefit from a continued partnership with CIC:

- Cleveland Municipal School District's baseball and softball programs
- Boys & Girls Clubs of Cleveland
- Cleveland Baseball Federation
- The United Black Fund Larry Doby Reviving Baseball in Inner Cities Program
- City of Cleveland Division of Recreation Rookie League Program
- Cleveland State University minority athletic scholarship
- North American Indian Cultural Center

The relationships CIC maintains with these Northeast Ohio youth-service agencies provides the opportunity to jointly create, design, and execute programs and activities. The result is programming which helps young people develop necessary life skills, learn responsibility and cooperation, and develop courage and confidence to face today's hurdles.

The Cleveland Indians ownership, staff, and players (Ellis Burks pictured above) actively support local youth by contributing to a variety of local education and recreation programs.



ing autographed baseballs, jerseys, bats, and other collectible Tribe items. New auction items are added weekly. The 2001 Online Auction generated more than \$42,000 for CIC.

Jacobs Field Tours

Experience the excitement of Cleveland's crown jewel with a behind-the-scenes tour of one of baseball's greatest ballparks. Tours are available May through September, Monday through Saturday, plus Sundays in June, July, and August when the team is on the road. Tickets are \$6.50 for adults and \$4.50 for youths 14 and under and senior citizens. A group rate and time are also available. Tickets are available at the Jacobs Field Box Office, all Indians Team Shops, through *indians.com*, by phone at 1.866.48TRIBE, and by automated kiosk at all Northern Ohio OfficeMax stores. Tour includes a visit to: the Bullpen, Club Lounge, Press Box, Dugout, Party Suite, and Batting Cages (*tour route subject to change*). On select dates, the tour will also make a stop in the Visitors Clubhouse. With support from **OfficeMax**, a special school tour program is also available in April, May, and September. Teachers will receive *Team Teacher*, a specially created booklet of baseball-related activities and curriculum, and an Indians Media Guide for use in their classroom. All tour guests will receive a special commemorative gift. Call 216.420.4385 for more information on public, group, or school tours.

First Pitch Luncheon

The 2002 season opened with a "welcome home" luncheon, April 9, at the Cleveland Convention Center. The entire Indians roster was on hand to help fans celebrate the start of another exciting season of Tribe baseball.



Shirt Off His Back

Take home your favorite Indians player's jersey – right off his back! During one game each homestand, Tribe fans can purchase raffle tickets to win an autographed, game-worn jersey from an Indians player. Winners will be escorted to the field after the game to receive the jersey from the player. Raffle tickets will be sold at various locations around Jacobs Field. Cost is \$5.00 for two raffle tickets. Call 216.420.4400 for specific players and game date information.

Pepsi Corporate Hitting Challenge

Assemble your power-hitting team and prepare to swing for the fences in the 7th annual corporate event. This single-elimination tournament pits Cleveland area businesses against each other. The first round begins in May and winds up in September. All rounds are held at Jacobs Field, with warm-ups in the batting cages. Call 216.420.4389 for a brochure or to register your team of nine players.



Garage Sale

Saturday, June 29 – This summer, don't miss the best garage sale on the block! Cleveland Indians Charities will hold its first-ever Garage Sale at Gateway Plaza, between Jacobs Field and Gund Arena! The event will feature game-worn jerseys, caps, and batting helmets; used bats; street-pole banners; ballpark signage; and other Indians items you won't find anywhere else. Don't miss this baseball collector's dream sale!

Annual Celebrity Golf Classic



Thursday, July 25 – Hit the links with your favorite Tribe players for the 11th annual Celebrity Golf Classic at Quail Hollow Resort and Country Club. Teams will be paired with Indians players, coaches, broadcasters, and local sports celebrities. Call 216.420.4400 for a brochure or to register.

The Music Returns in 2002



Saturday, August 24 – The celebrity concert of the summer is back! Enjoy a night filled with music and surprises as several Tribesmen perform with well-known rock-n-roll stars! The fourth annual event is fun for music and baseball fans of all ages. Call 216.420.4400 for the lineup of stars and ticket prices.



Photos: Gregory Drezdron

Jacobs Field Ground Rules

Baseball's most important pitch this season won't come from a mound. In an effort to combat drinking and driving, Major League Baseball, together with the Techniques for Effective Alcohol Management (TEAM) coalition, continues to make a comprehensive appeal to fans this year. The message: *PLEASE DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE!*

As part of the TEAM program, each Major League club reviews its alcohol policies and runs public service announcements asking fans to drink responsibly and warns them against the consequences of drinking and driving.

The Cleveland Indians want you safe, because we want you back. Please drink responsibly.

In an effort to make everyone's visit to the Ballpark as safe and enjoyable as possible, a list of guidelines has been developed.

The Indians ask that you follow these guidelines, or be subject to ejection from the Ballpark, and in some cases, subject to criminal prosecution by the Cleveland Police Department.

To ensure that each game is a pleasant experience for each and every guest, the Indians have established the following "Ground Rules:"

● MLB Universal Code of Conduct

The Cleveland Indians are committed to creating a safe and enjoyable ballpark experience. Our staff will proactively intervene to support an environment where:

- ❑ Obscene or indecent clothing will not detract from the guest experience.
- ❑ Guests will enjoy the baseball experience free from foul abusive language or obscene gestures.
- ❑ Guests will refrain from displays of affection not appropriate in a public family setting.
- ❑ Intervention with an impaired or intoxicated guest will be handled in a prompt and safe manner.
- ❑ Guests will show their ticket when requested and sit only in their ticketed seat.
- ❑ The progress of the game will not be disrupted by guest actions or unauthorized access to the playing field.
- ❑ All camera and equipment bags are subject to inspection.
- ❑ Per MLB requirements, fans may not bring coolers, backpacks, or lunch bags into any ballpark. Small bags (i.e. – purses) will be inspected before they are permitted into the ballpark.
- ❑ For the safety and comfort of all of our fans, umbrellas are not permitted in the ballpark.

- Jacobs Field is a non-smoking facility with designated smoking areas. Non-smoking areas include: the entire seating bowl of the Ballpark (including the outdoor seating of Suites and Club Seats); KidsLand; Club Lounge; and all public rest rooms. Smoking is permitted in the following areas: Ford Picnic Pavilion; Miller Lite Patio area on the Main Concourse; all three concourse levels (Main, Mezzanine, and Upper Deck) on the East Ninth Street side of the Ballpark and Upper Deck pavilion area on the Carnegie side of the Ballpark (all of these locations are open-air areas with picnic

"It is our intention to make our home a safe, comfortable, family-oriented facility so every trip to Jacobs Field is most enjoyable."

Dennis Lehman, Indians Executive Vice President of Business

tables, concession stands, and rest room facilities nearby); Bleacher Concourse on the Eagle Avenue side of the Ballpark. In addition, the Terrace Club has both smoking and non-smoking areas. Jacobs Field has signage identifying designated smoking areas for your convenience.

- Cans, glass bottles, plastic beverage containers, thermos bottles, and squeeze bottles are not permitted into Jacobs Field.
- Food items and juice boxes are permitted inside the Ballpark, provided they are not inside a cooler or container.
- Pets are not allowed inside the Ballpark. However, working dogs for persons with disabilities are permitted.
- The resale (scalping) of Indians tickets is strictly prohibited and subject to prosecution by the Cleveland Police Department.
- For the consideration of all of our fans, please refrain from entering and exiting the seating bowl while game action is occurring.
- Cameras and video recorders are permitted. However, any resale of the photography or video is strictly prohibited. Team name, logos, and players' likenesses are all copyrighted material.
- Persons observed breaking the law (eg. using illegal drugs, or drinking alcohol underage) will be subject to immediate ejection and/or criminal prosecution.
- Persons entering the playing field, throwing or attempting to throw objects onto the field, will be subject to immediate ejection from Jacobs Field and/or criminal prosecution.

If you have any questions, comments, suggestions, or problems, please visit one of the Guest Service Centers located at Section 121 of the Main Concourse and in Section 519 of the Upper Concourse, or see one of our hosts throughout the Ballpark. The Indians thank you for your cooperation.



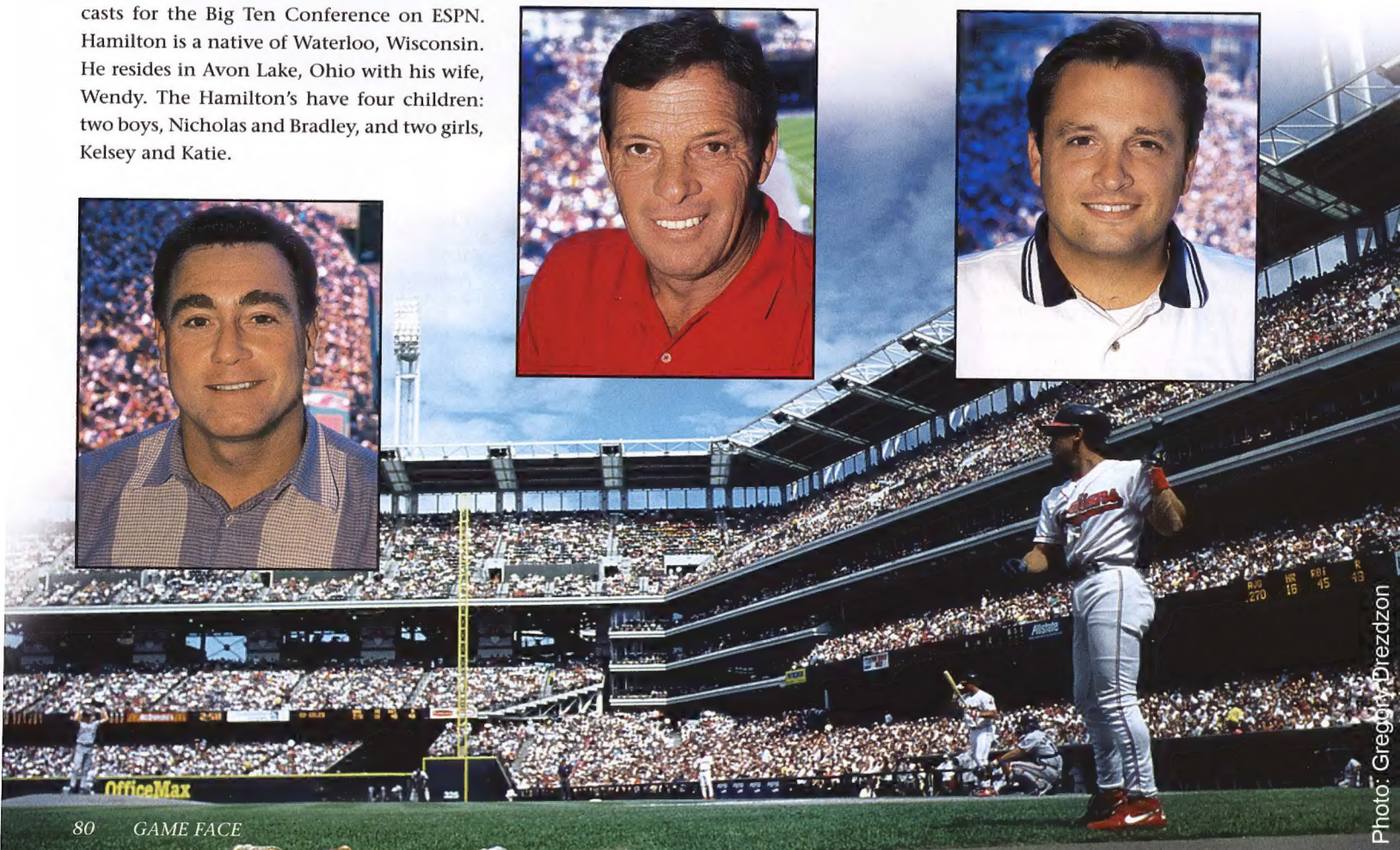
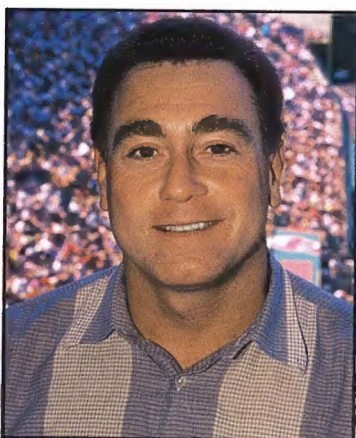
Photo: Gregory Drezdson

Cleveland Indians Broadcasters

Tom Hamilton, the "Voice of the Indians," is now in his 13th season of calling Cleveland Indians baseball games on radio. In his 12 seasons since 1990, Hamilton has called 57 post-season games for the Tribe from 1994-99 and 2001 including all six games from the 1995 World Series and all seven games from the 1997 World Series. Hamilton will be teamed in the booth with Mike Hegan and Matt Underwood to provide commentary for all 162 regular-season games and 20 Spring Training contests on NEWSRADIO WTAM 1100 AM and on the Indians Radio Network. Tom came to the Indians after spending three seasons as a broadcaster for the AAA Columbus Clippers, the top farm club of the New York Yankees. Previously, he worked in Milwaukee, Appleton, Watertown, and Shell Lake, Wisconsin. Some of Tom's broadcasting credits include the University of Wisconsin football games, University of Colorado basketball games, the Appleton Foxes Minor League baseball games, and work for ABC Radio. He is a three-time recipient of the Ohio Sportscaster of the Year Award (1997, 2000, and 2001). During the off-season, Tom does television basketball broadcasts for the Big Ten Conference on ESPN. Hamilton is a native of Waterloo, Wisconsin. He resides in Avon Lake, Ohio with his wife, Wendy. The Hamiltons have four children: two boys, Nicholas and Bradley, and two girls, Kelsey and Katie.

Mike Hegan is in his 14th season as a Tribe broadcaster. He is teaming up with Tom Hamilton and Matt Underwood for a fifth straight year in the Indians radio booth and is in his debut season with FOX Sports Net – joining John Sanders and Rick Manning in the television booth on a rotational basis. Mike handles both play-by-play and color analysis with WTAM and FOX Sports Net. He spent the past 13 seasons providing color analysis for Tribe games on WUAB-TV43. Prior to joining the Indians in 1989, he spent 12 seasons as a television announcer for the Milwaukee Brewers. Mike played 12 years in the Major Leagues (1964-77) with the New York Yankees, Seattle Pilots, Milwaukee Brewers, and the Oakland Athletics. The former first basemen-outfielder represented Seattle in the 1969 All-Star Game and played on the 1972 World Championship Oakland Athletics team. Mike is the son of former Indians catcher, Jim Hegan, who played with the Tribe for 14 seasons. Mike and his wife, Nancy, reside in Hilton Head, SC. They have two sons, Shawn and J.J., and two grandchildren.

Matt Underwood is in his third season as a member of the Tribe radio broadcast team. He has spent seven seasons, from 1994-2001, as host of *Indians Warm-up*, the pregame show heard on the Cleveland Indians Radio Network. He has also hosted the pregame show for Indians baseball on FOX Sports Net for the past five seasons. Matt spent the previous 12 years in various capacities with local ABC affiliate WEWS-TV5. He has continued that relationship in a part-time role since joining the Tribe radio broadcast team during the 2000 season. He served as the station's sports director from 1997-2000. In addition to anchoring the 6PM and 11PM sports, he also hosted the weekly half-hour show, *Sports Sunday*. Underwood co-hosted a daily talk show on SportsRadio WKNR (1993-94) and served as play-by-play voice for WVIZ's High School Football and Basketball *Game of the Week* from 1992-1998. The Ashland, OH native graduated from Baldwin-Wallace College in 1990. Matt currently resides in Avon Lake with his wife, Shelley. They have two children, Max and Devan.



UNITED WAY SERVICES

Softball **SLAM**

TEAM UP

**with United Way for the
2002 Softball Slam!**

**Secure your spot on United Way's
Softball Slam team and hit a home
run for the community.**

When you sign on, you will:

- play in a five-inning softball game right on Jacobs Field*
- receive a pair of tickets to the August 11 game against the Texas Rangers
- have your picture taken with Jim Thome and Bob Wickman
- see your name in lights on the stadium scoreboard
- be entered into a drawing for great prizes, including Indians tickets, autographed memorabilia, first pitch at an Indians game, and much more!

A very limited number of sponsorships are available at \$1,000 for this unique opportunity.

All proceeds will benefit the nearly 130 partner agencies of United Way.

**TO SECURE YOUR SPOT ON THE TEAM OR FOR
MORE INFORMATION, CALL UNITED WAY AT
(216) 436-2123.**

*Team participants must be 12 years of age or older.

Indians

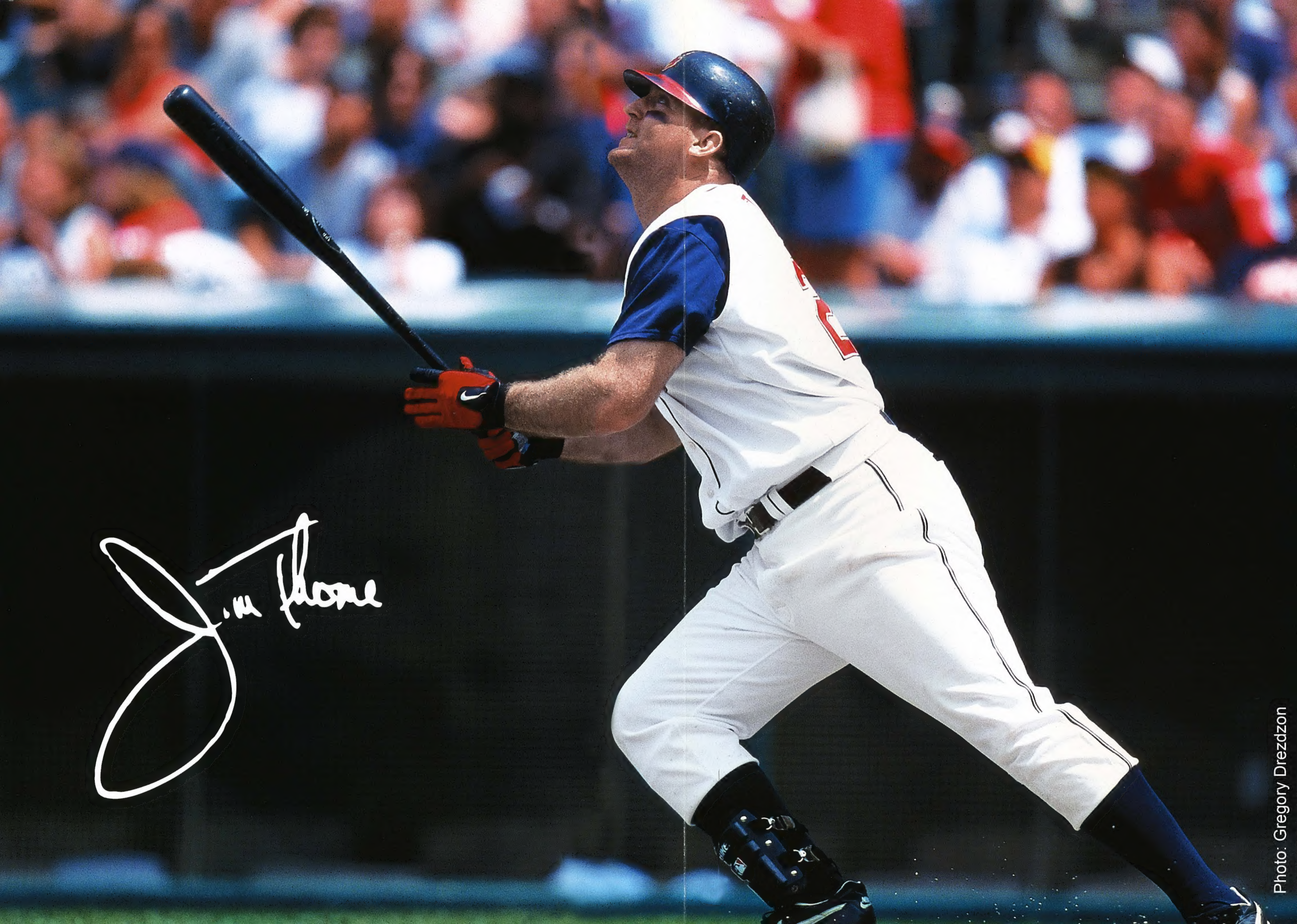


**United Way
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www.uws.org



Photo: Gregory Drezdson



Jim Thome